

THE SPIRIT OF THE TIMES.

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UNWRITTEN MUSIC.

BY L. VIRGINIA SMITH.

Dost thou not hear it? 'Tis upon the breeze,
And from the brookside, in the forest aisles,
And far away where cloud and sunshine meet
In the deep azure sky. The symphonies
Of spring are gushing fervently and free,
As early orisons from the pure hearts
And lips of childhood. From the valley green
Where wave the slender willows, upward
steals

The low, clear tinkling of the rivulet,
As though it mocked the roving zephyr's search
For its sweet hiding place. The bird and bee
Sing to the blossoms, and their minstrelsy
Calls forth the queenly rose, amidst the lay
Of hand was wont to herald the approach
Of beauty to the tournament. On high
The sky lark bathes his bosom in the cloud,
And every tiny drop within it thrills
To his glad melody, as thrills the hearts
Of some vast multitude of listeners
When Sweden's song bird sings.

Around the eyes
Flies the young blue-bird, and the little wren
With its low, piping note, the humming bird
Bright as a fading rainbow, while afar
From the deep everglote comes up the call
Of sweet voiced dwellers in the solitude,
Where the dark cedar flings its mossy boughs
O'er the white crest dogwood trees, is heard
The winding of the locust's tiny horn;

While from the beechen grove the lady-dill
Sends forth her merry challenge. At early morn
The gay grass hopper, with his fiery fire
Sings a shrill reveille, and swift as eve
The elves come trooping to the beetle's drum;
Then, when the thunder, with its organ swell,
Peels through the dome of Heaven, how softly
fall
The footsteps of the rain—like to a pand
Orgel waltz—whispering slowly entering
The temple of the Lord.

O! what a world
Of heaven descended music lies around
Our daily path-way; in the morning air,
The noonday glory and the dewy fall
Of dusk twilight, in the earlings
Of bird and breeze, the hummer of the leaves,
And the lowly gliding streamlet. Shall we note
Their many braided melodies? or give again
Their spells of song to thousands? None; but
one;

And yet the poorest slave may revel in
This music, written by the hand of God.

THE LIFE GAUGE.

BY ABBY ALLIN.

They err who measure life by years,
With false and thoughtless tongue;
Some hearts grow old before their time;
Others are always young!

'Tis not the numbers of the lines
On life's fast-filling page;
'Tis not the pulses added throbs,
Which constitute our age.

Some souls are serene among the free,
While others nobly strive;
They stand just where their fathers stood;
Dead, even when they live!

Others, all spirit, heart and sense—
Theirs the mysterious power
To live in thrills of joy or woe,
A twelvemonth in an hour!

Seize, then the minutes as they pass—
The wood of life is precious!
Warm up the colours, let them glow,
By fire or fancy fraught!

Live to some purpose—make thy life
A gift of use to thee—
A joy, a good, a golden hope,
A heavenly agony!

GOOD.
The following, which we clip from an
exchange, only goes to prove that—
"some things can be done as well as
others!"

When lovely woman veils her bosom
With muslin fashionably thin,
What man with eyes, could e'er refuse to
Cautionously from peeping in?
And when his ardent gaze returning,
The muslin heaves to deep drawn sighs,
Would not his fingers be burning
To press—his hand down e'er his eyes?

Cashmere Goats in South Carolina.
The New York Herald acknowledges
the receipt of a quantity of snow-white
Cashmere wool, raised in South Caro-
lina, by James K. Davis, from goats
brought by him from Persia. Dr. Davis
went out to Turkey some seven or eight
years ago, on invitation of the Sultan,
to attempt the cultivation of cotton from
the best seeds of the South. He failed
in the trial; but he brought home some
beautiful Persian goats, which produce
the Cashmere wool, and from them he
is raising a flock of goats, which promise
to be a valuable addition to our do-
mestic stock.

If we want to get wisdom we must do
as the chickens do when they feed, pick
up a little at a time.

Progress and Influences of Commerce.

By THE REV. DR. VINTON.

Dr. Vinton delivered a Lecture on
Tuesday evening, at the Brooklyn A-
thenaeum, with the title, "The Merchant,
or the Progress and Influences of Com-
merce," to a large audience.

The lecturer introduced his subject
with a eulogy on Agriculture, Art, and
Commerce as a noble triad, not indeed
born together, yet knit into a fellowship
of kindred and affinity. After a historical
sketch of the origin and develop-
ments of trade, and also of the useful
arts, the more immediate topic of the
lecture was entered upon with the re-
mark that Solomon was a royal merchant.
He was among the first potentates
who made a "navy of ships." They
were built on the shores of the Red Sea,
in the land of Edom. Solomon had a
partner in the person of Hiram. They
pushed their joint adventures with great
profit. The earliest voyages had gold
gathering for their object. Hence Ophir
was the great point of attraction. Silver
and iron and other minerals were added
to their freight, and also the beautiful
woods of the country from which "stair-
cases for the Lord's house were made.
After some etymological speculations as
to where Ophir was located, in which
the hypothesis that California now oc-
cupies its seat was broached and favored
as among probabilities, and further
notice of the progress of commerce in
Solomon's time, a general survey was
taken of the more ancient international
exchanges, the lecturer went on to say
that the modern merchant had attained
his proud pre-eminence by slow and
painful steps of trembling ventures. It
was contended that no department of
human enterprise had called for stronger
exertions, or a greater spirit of daring ad-
venture than that of Commerce. In the
East the birth of civilization took place
and there it soonest attained to old age.
Bishop Berkeley's famous Ole was
framed on this circumstance, pointing
out the course of Empire:

"Westward the course of Empire takes its way,
The four first acts already past;
A fifth shall show the sixth the way,
Time's noblest offspring is her last!"

The greater part of the Eastern Com-
merce of the ancient era was of land
carriage. The caravan was the only fleet
that went from nation to nation.

The invasion of the Roman Empire by
the Northern Barbarians was dwelt on,
and its consequences pointed out, and
the origin of the cities of Venice, Genoa,
Pisa, Florence, "trading as they rose,"
and rising higher by trading," was
clearly described. The Medici, and
"other merchant princes," were noticed
honorable in passing to other topics.
The Crusades, and their influence on
trade, were not forgotten, and the strik-
ing fact of their beligerent intentions
being overruled for the promotion of
peace. Next, Holland and Flanders
were brought into review, and justice
was done to the persevering Dutch mer-
chants, with their wondrous reclama-
tions of sea-side lands with dykes. These
indomitable men dashed back the sur-
ges, repelled the tides of old Ocean—
"as fought the very Moon and conquer-
ed." On these reclaimed shores they
built their habitations, thus invading the
very territories of the waters. A warm
eulogy was passed upon Hollander en-
terprise and perseverance. To the Han-
sians was referred the origin of the
principle of commercial honor. They
were not afraid to trust each other, and
thus they gave an example to their peo-
ple which had much to do in modifying
the system of exchange and valuation.
Credit needed an exponent. Hence
sprang Bills of Exchange, as a cur-
rency of Commerce. The history of Ex-
changes was traced, and an interesting
account was given of the Lombardy
Jewish Bankers, whose certificates of
deposit circulated in Lombard street,
London, as the first approach to the
modern bank bill. Out of this grew the
all powerful banking and credit system
of our owners. The money-changer's
little bench on the Rialto in the twelfth
century, has become the sensitive index
of changes in the world, and the very
regulator of the world—the very sport
of political accidents, and the controller
of politics—the creature of commerce, and
the mighty director of universal trade;
sustained by the trembling, nervous, pal-
pitating thing called credit, and up-
holding credit in its brawny arms all
over the round earth. The speaker then
considered the slow progress of trade in
England, and passed thence to a sketch
of the history of modern commerce, from
the first venture of Columbus from Pa-
los. In the eighteenth century com-
merce began to take the position of prime
minister, and to rule the sovereign and
guide the legislature. It assumed the
ermine, sat upon the bench, and intro-
duced new chapters into the law reports.
It formed alliances with religion, and
suggested big thoughts of missionary un-
dertakings to the heathen world. It was
omnipresent among all classes, opening
markets for agriculture and arts, provid-
ing means for popular education, com-
forting poor and rich with foreign pro-
ductions that once no potentate could
command. And when the nineteenth
century broke into day, commerce was
dealing with men in the farthest corners
of the earth. Dr. V. next spoke of the
invention of the steam-engine and the
Telegraph, most eloquently depicting
their immense labors and incalculable
value in aid of commerce. He concluded
in the following words: The grand
principle of commercial credit, on which
the operations of trade are now conduc-
ed, requires that the merchant should
acknowledge the bands of brotherhood,
while he stands erect in the dignity of
self-respect and independence. And I am
sure that, notwithstanding instances
of dishonor, deceit and fraud, there nev-

er was a period in the history of man
when truth and honesty have been more
illustrious than in the thirty years of
commercial dealings since the peace of
Europe. There has been no era like it
in the annals of the world. Never until
the dawn of the latter half of this cen-
tury, in 1831, has it been possible for
foreign merchants to look each other in
the face—possible, in a moral sense, for
correspondents to look one another in
the eye without a blush—possible, in a
physical point of view, for men of every
nation to meet together in one arena, to
compare the fruits of their industry and
art. But this great event, this unfor-
seen possibility, has come to pass! Peo-
ple different in religion, in language, in
custom, in habits of living, have been
brought into contact—all to stand beneath
the triumphal edifice of Anglo-Saxon skill,
all gazing at each other's products, all
teaching or acquiring knowledge, all
imbibing reverence for human fellow-
ship, all catching fire from emulation
in the industrial arena. I see before my
mind's eye the crystal structure in Hyde
Park, founded by princely sagacity, and
reared by the mechanic art of British
workmen, in the Commercial Capital
of the world. It stands in the midst of
the warriors of sea and land, surround-
ed also by memorials of cloistered learn-
ing and of Christian sympathy, encom-
passed besides by the proofs of a liv-
ing civilization of the highest type, and
filled with curious stuffs that industry
has wrought and commerce has collect-
ed. Man out of every country, every
kindred of the lands are congregated
therein, speaking tongues wherewith
is a common language that all can un-
derstand, belonging to the family of the na-
tions. In imagination, I am beneath
the transparent arch, looking upward to
the firmament of the stars, and outward
upon the earth, and around upon the
masses of mankind; and I conceive that
I am contemplating the Progress of com-
merce, its triumph, its promise, its gor-
geous jubilee. That Crystal Palace
was a symbol. It was a kind of sacra-
ment. It was the outward and visible
sign of national fellowship. It was the
dilemma of peace. No former age has
been competent to produce the phenom-
enon of the representation of the world.
No other age has witnessed a universal
concourse, unarméd, undisturbed, con-
fiding, serene and tranquil, conscious
of their security, under the safeguard
of civil law. No other age nor genera-
tion has been able to furnish an oppor-
tunity for heart to beat against heart,
and hand to join in hand, with the
pledge of Peace. The great idea is fixed,
and is taking root. It is already repro-
ducing itself. It is grown up beautiful-
ly in the midst of us. It is bearing fruit
in other countries. The spirit of the age
in Commerce, and its temple shall be
reared in every land. But this spirit of
the age suggests dangers and warnings
as well as hopes and exhortations. The
imminent danger to commercial men is
covetousness. The rapidity of commer-
cial agencies has accelerated everything
they touch. Men are more impatient
than when the wheel of intercourse went
slow, and the argosy made one voyage
a year. Haste to be rich—haste to re-
alize a fortune, is a dangerous snare to
honor and to honesty. Beware, then,
of that idolatry which shall end in
shame. Beware of the love of money.
'which is the root of all evil. God has
made Commerce the pioneer to his Re-
ligion. He has purposes higher, holier
and more blessed than to promote mere-
ly the temperate comforts of mankind.
The merchant should be mindful of
God's designs and Providence. The
merchant should believe that he is a
minister and steward of the mysteries of
God, in his appointed sphere and mea-
sure. Let him, then, cease to be a mere
shopman, a trader, a selfish accumulator
of filthy lucre. But let him be the
Statesman, the Philanthropist, the Chris-
tian. The fate of Tyne awaits those
cities which, like her, were puffed up
with pride of wealth and fulness of
bread, forgetful of Him "who giveth us
power to get wealth." Let us hope
better things, for 'as commerce has
wrought evils in civilizing the world,
so ought we to expect her to fulfill her
mission in helping the Church to Chris-
tianize the world. Thus shall the peo-
ple's idea be realized in the merchants of
our day—that "accomplished merchants
are accomplished men." Let me con-
clude with Dr. Young's concluding
verse in his ode to the merchant:

"Merchant! Religion is thy care,
To grow as rich as angels are, [main
To know false coin from true—to sweep the
That mighty stake secure, beyond
The strongest tie of field or fund—[GAIN
Commerce gives GOLD—Religion makes it

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the Charge replied that he must be so
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We know the most, we love the best,
For art thou not of British blood?
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Perilous out then the tyrant powers
To fight thy mother here alone
But let thy broadsword run with ours.
Hands all round!
God the tyrants cause confound!
To our great kinsman of the West, my friends,
And the great name of England round and round!

Arise, our great Antagonist,
When War against our freedom springs!
O speak to Europe through your guns—
They say we understand our rights.
You must not mix our quest with those
Who wish to keep the people fool!
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a wig and small clothes, but paid his
respects to her Majesty in the splendid
attire he was wont to wear before his
own monarch at home. Now we pro-
test against allowing any violation of
this principle in the case of the repre-
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should require us to insist on their re-
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be sent as an Envoy to Europe or else-
where, it would be very proper for him
to wear his uniform on official occa-
sions just as he would do at home. But
why should a civilian who has no uni-
form, and would blush to be seen in one
at the President's levee, rig himself out
in gold-lace and embroidery at Berlin or
St. Petersburg? Why should an Ameri-
can stoop to do what even a barbarian is
not required to do, change the official
costume of his country for a Chinese peti-
coat at Peking, or a fancy embroidered
swallow-tail velvet; such as the illus-
trious Soule now sports so fascinatingly
at Madrid? It is an absurdity and a dog-
radation, and we trust Congress will
take the matter in hand, and supply the
place of Mr. Marcy's halfway and
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England and the United States.
A London paper says: It is a gratifying
symptom that, in all our calculations for the future,
no one party in the empire looks for support to our old
allies of 1815, Russia and the German sovereigns. The
press, legislators and local officers all look westward
for assistance, should the exigencies of our circum-
stances need it. This feeling is kept alive by prose
and verse. Witness the following from the Examiner.

Gigantic daughter of the West,
We drink to thee across the flood;
We know the most, we love the best,
For art thou not of British blood?
For art thou not of British blood?
Should War's mad host again be blown
Perilous out then the tyrant powers
To fight thy mother here alone
But let thy broadsword run with ours.
Hands all round!
God the tyrants cause confound!
To our great kinsman of the West, my friends,
And the great name of England round and round!

Arise, our great Antagonist,
When War against our freedom springs!
O speak to Europe through your guns—
They say we understand our rights.
You must not mix our quest with those
Who wish to keep the people fool!
Our freedom's foe is her foe—
She comprehends the race she rules.

Hands all round!
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To our dear kinsman of the West, my friends,
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It seems that Mr. Belmont found at
the Hague the same difficulty in getting
access to Court that Mr. Vroom expe-
rienced at Berlin, but unlike that
gentleman, he did not succumb to the
royal togethery-monger. When his Dutch
Majesty objected to receiving the Amer-
ican Charge d'Affaires in citizens clothes
the Charge replied that he must be so
received or out at all and received he
was accordingly. We commend the spirit
of Mr. Belmont all the more because
thus far we have not found much else to
commend about his official care. He
did no more than his duty in standing
firm on the clothes question. The de-
mand of the Dutch Court, that he should
put on a livery of some sort in order to
be received, was in fact an insult to the
American people. This is a point to
which we invite the careful attention of
the public and of Congress. It is a
universal rule that a Minister, or Charge
d'Affaires; or a private subject, or citi-
zen of any Government, may appear at
any Court in that costume in which he
appears at the Court of his own
sovereign, or in the presence of the
head of his own nation. Thus, a Min-
ister from China would be received in
Chinese costume, and one from Turkey
in the graceful dress of a Turk. This
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